

LETTERS

World Cup may spur alarm now, but trafficking is a daily scourge

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A billboard raising awareness of human trafficking was posted on Route 1 northbound several miles from Gillette Stadium in Foxborough. JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

We applaud the Commonwealth's antitrafficking investments during the World Cup, providing critical support for our mission at the Boston Human Exploitation Advocacy Team, or Boston HEAT (["Officials issue World Cup safety plans, seek public's help,"](#) Metro, June 8). But make no mistake, human trafficking happens in our community every day when there is no World Cup shedding light on the darkness. This attention is critical.

This month the Globe reported that the body of a 16-year-old, murdered 26 years ago, was finally identified as Tiffany Bradley. Authorities believe she was [trafficked](#). It is easy to miss how closely these two stories are connected. It enrages me that the resources illuminating the social cracks where trafficking happens were not there for Tiffany and so many others.

Seemingly unrelated events — a murdered child and an international sporting event — present the opportunity to educate the public on root causes of sex trafficking. Many trafficked youth develop addiction to cope with severe trauma, with exploitation continuing into adulthood and leading to places such as Mass. and Cass, where there is often more blame for victims than compassion.

After the World Cup concludes, and as mourning for Tiffany endures, we urge the Globe and readers to learn more about sex trafficking in the Commonwealth, the organizations on the front lines, and how everyone can help.

Abigail M. Judge

Boston

The writer is founder and codirector of Boston Human Exploitation Advocacy Team (HEAT). She is also a clinical psychologist at Massachusetts General Hospital.